

APPENDIX 1

State and Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Present Within the Lower Merrimack River Corridor Community



NEW HAMPSHIRE NATURAL HERITAGE BUREAU

DRED - DIVISION OF FORESTS & LANDS

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Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Exemplary Natural Communities in New Hampshire Towns



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NH Natural Heritage is a bureau in the Division of Forests & Lands. Our mission is to find, track, and facilitate the protection of New Hampshire's rare plants and exemplary natural communities (which are essentially different types of forests, wetlands, grasslands, etc.). We currently study more than 740 plant and animal species, 195 natural communities. Our database contains information on more than 5,000 species or natural community occurrences throughout the state.

Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities Tracked by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau

The following lists note the rare plants, rare animals, and exemplary natural communities that the NH Natural Heritage Bureau has on record in each town. This document may not be used as a substitute for NH Natural Heritage Bureau reviews that are required by the Department of Environmental Services, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or any other local, state, or federal government agency. *A few species that are highly vulnerable to collection are not included in the town lists.* In addition, the list is dynamic: as new populations and natural communities are reported to our office, the list grows. Planners and interested residents should therefore contact the NH Natural Heritage Bureau directly if they need up-to-date information or have questions.

Exemplary Natural Communities

Natural communities are basically different types of forests, wetlands, grasslands, etc.: formally defined as assemblages of plants and animals that recur in predictable patterns across the landscape under similar physical conditions. Most of the New Hampshire landscape is covered by relatively common natural community types. Scattered throughout the state, however, and usually in predictable areas, are distinctive communities found in few other places.

Particular sets of natural communities tend to co-occur in the landscape and are linked by a common set of driving forces, such as landforms, flooding, soils, and nutrient regime. These are referred to as natural community systems. Systems are at an appropriate scale for many conservation applications, including mapping and predictive modeling, correspondence to wildlife and wildlife habitats, and as direct conservation targets in conservation planning.

The NH Natural Heritage Bureau tracks "exemplary" natural community and system occurrences. To qualify as exemplary, a natural community or system in a given place must be of a rare type, such as a calcareous riverside seep, or must be a very old occurrence of a common community in good condition, such as an old-growth spruce - fir forest.

Rare Plant Species

The NH Natural Heritage Bureau tracks the state's rarest and most imperiled plant species. We have identified these plants in cooperation with researchers, conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, and knowledgeable amateur botanists. We obtained plant locations from sources including herbarium specimens (some dating from the late 1800s), personal contacts, the scientific literature, and through extensive field research. The NH Natural Heritage Bureau undertakes surveys on private property only with landowner permission.

Rare Animal Species

The NH Natural Heritage Bureau tracks rare animal species in cooperation with the Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program of the NH Fish & Game Department. The Nongame Program has identified these species in cooperation with researchers, conservation organizations such as the Audubon



Society of New Hampshire, knowledgeable amateur biologists, and the NH Natural Heritage Bureau. Wildlife locations were obtained from sources including museum specimens, personal contacts, the scientific literature, and through extensive field research.

For each plant, animal, and exemplary natural community within a town, we have provided the following information:

Name

Plants: Readers should remember that common names vary across the range of the plant. For example, "wild lupine" (*Lupinus perennis*) in New Hampshire is called "wild blue lupine" in New York and "sundial lupine" in other parts of its range; the name also commonly leads to confusion with garden lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) which is not native to New Hampshire but grows wild in some areas. Scientific names are standardized with the scientific names used by other Natural Heritage programs throughout North and South America. The primary references used are:

Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 1993-2003. Flora of North America North of Mexico. vols. 1-4, 22, 23, 25, 26. Oxford University Press, NY.

Kartesz, J.T. and R. Kartesz. 1980. *A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland*. vol. 2 - The Biota of North America. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC.

Wildlife: Common names are provided for all species that have them. Many insect species, particularly moths, do not have common names, so general terms such as "A Noctuid Moth" are used or no name is given ("--"). Scientific names are standardized with the scientific names used by other Natural Heritage programs throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, and South America.

Natural Communities: The names of natural communities reflect the plants that help define them, such as a Beech Forest, or the environmental processes that influence them, such as a Boulder - Cobble River Channel.

Listing

Plants: Most of New Hampshire's rare plants are listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the NH Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (NH RSA 217-A). The most recent revision of the list came into effect on June 25, 2005. A subset of species are also listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (42 USCA §§ 4321-4370c). Listing represents a political recognition of rarity, so some species that are biologically rare (and therefore included in the list) may not be listed as "threatened" or "endangered." Under the NH Native Plant Protection Act, "endangered" species are those in danger of being extirpated from the state, while "threatened" species face the possibility of becoming "endangered."

The presence of a rare plant or natural community does not limit a landowner's ability to use their land – this is stated explicitly in the NH Native Plant Protection Act. Landowners applying for state wetland permits are required by the NH Department of Environmental Services to review options for achieving their land-use objectives while protecting a rare plant or natural community, but projects will not be denied solely on the basis of a rare plant occurrence. In our experience, rare plants are typically destroyed because landowners are not aware of them; minor changes to their projects usually could have saved the rarities. Our goal is to help landowners protect rarities on their properties *voluntarily*.



Wildlife: A portion of New Hampshire's rare animals are listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under the NH Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1979 (NH RSA 212-A). A subset of these species are also listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (42 USCA §§ 4321-4370c). As with plants, listing represents a political recognition of rarity, so some species that are biologically rare (and therefore included in the list) may not be listed as "threatened" or "endangered." Under the NH Endangered Species Conservation Act, "endangered" species are those in danger of being extirpated from the state, while "threatened" species face the possibility of becoming "endangered."

Rare wildlife in New Hampshire are under the jurisdiction of the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program in the NH Fish & Game Department.

Known Locations We have noted the number of occurrences of a given plant, animal, or natural community within each town. There has not been a comprehensive search of the state for rare species or natural communities, so we are frequently finding or learning about previously unknown populations. Further, many rare plant and animal populations have not been checked since they were originally found, sometimes more than 50 years ago, so we do not know the status of these populations. We have listed populations that have not been reported to us in the last 20 years as "historical only"; these populations may still be present, but field surveys are necessary to confirm their survival.

We have also included the number of known occurrences of each plant, animal, and natural community within the entire state. If no locations are indicated (- -), the species is known to have once occurred in the state, but specific sites are not in our database.

Flags When considering the rarity of a species, it is important to consider the status of a species both in New Hampshire and across its total range. Some species, such as the wildflower Jesup's milk-vetch (*Astragalus robbinsii* var. *jesupi*), are critically imperiled both globally and in New Hampshire. Jesup's milk-vetch has three known populations on the planet, all on a 16-mile stretch of the Connecticut River. Other species, such as small yellow lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), are very rare in New Hampshire but quite common in other parts of their range.

We refer to a plant species as "globally rare" if it has fewer than 20 populations anywhere in the world, or if it has more populations but few reproducing individuals. "State rare" species are those that may be common elsewhere, but have few populations or total individuals in New Hampshire.

The rankings for wildlife are based more on the degree of imperilment than on the number of occurrences in the state, although abundance certainly plays a role in assessing a species' long-term viability in New Hampshire. Some species, such as the fish crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) have only a few occurrences in New Hampshire but, since they are expanding northward into the state, they are considered to be vulnerable but not imperiled. Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), on the other hand, appear to be distributed fairly broadly across the state, but populations are small and vulnerable to habitat loss, so they are considered at risk.



The relative quality of a rare species population or natural community is also important when assessing its conservation importance. We consider all populations to be of high conservation value, but an "excellent" population (say with several hundred plants) of a globally rare species is particularly important when compared to a "marginal" population (say with only five plants).

To help planners assess the relative importance of rare species and exemplary natural communities in their town, we have attached "flags" to occurrences that have been recorded in the last 20 years. The flags are as follows:

- **** **Highest** An excellent example of a globally rare species or natural community
- *** **Extremely High** A good example of a global rarity or an excellent example of a state rarity
- ** **Very High** A marginal example of a global rarity or a good example of a state rarity
- * **High** A marginal example of a state rarity

Readers should remember that there are many different ways to assess the value of a rare species population or a natural community. We therefore recommend that towns contact the NH Natural Heritage Bureau at (603) 271-2214 to discuss why occurrences in their towns were flagged at each level.

Note In addition to recognizing Endangered and Threatened plant species, the NH Native Plant Protection Act identifies 11 plants as Special Concern. These species are somewhat uncommon in New Hampshire, and are at risk of decline due to over-collection. The NH Natural Heritage Bureau does not track these species.

Narrow-leaf wild leek	<i>Allium tricoccum</i> var. <i>burdickii</i>
Wild leek	<i>Allium tricoccum</i> var. <i>tricoccum</i>
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
Giant blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum giganteum</i>
Blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>
Sea lavender	<i>Limonium carolinianum</i>
Ostrich fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> var. <i>pennsylvanica</i>
Canadian burnet	<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>
Slippery elm	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

Address: NH Natural Heritage/DRED **Telephone:** (603) 271-2214 **Fax:** (603) 271-6488
 PO Box 1856
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A Quick Overview of the NH Natural Heritage Bureau's Purpose and Policies

The Natural Heritage Bureau is mandated by the Native Plant Protection Act of 1987 (NH RSA 217-A) to determine protective measures and requirements necessary for the survival of native plant species in the state, to investigate the condition and degree of rarity of plant species, and to distribute information regarding the condition and protection of these species and their habitats.

The Natural Heritage Bureau provides information to facilitate informed land-use decision-making. We are not a regulatory agency; instead, we work with landowners and land managers to help them protect the State's natural heritage and meet their land-use needs.

The Natural Heritage Bureau has three facets:

Inventory involves identifying new occurrences of sensitive species and classifying New Hampshire's biodiversity. We currently study more than 740 plant and animal species and 195 natural communities. Surveys for rarities on private lands are conducted only with landowner permission.

Tracking is the management of occurrence data. Our database currently contains information about more than 5,000 plant, animal, and natural community occurrences in New Hampshire.

Interpretation is the communication of Natural Heritage Bureau information. Our goal is to cooperate with public and private land managers to help them *protect* rare species populations and exemplary natural communities.



Town Flag	Species or Community Name	Listed?		# reported last 20	
		Federal	State	Town	State
<u>Hudson</u>					
Natural Communities - Terrestrial					
**	Dry Appalachian oak - hickory forest	--	-	1	15
	Hemlock forest	--	-	Historical	4
***	Rich Appalachian oak rocky woods	--	-	2	19
Natural Communities - Palustrine					
*	Kettle hole bog system	--	-	1	23
Plants					
	American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Arethusa (<i>Arethusa bulbosa</i>)	--	T	Historical	21
	Arrow-headed Rattlebox (<i>Crotalaria sagittalis</i>)	--	E	Historical	1
	Bird's-foot Violet (<i>Viola pedata</i>)	--	T	Historical	11
	Blunt-leaved Milkweed (<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>)	--	T	Historical	12
**	Dwarf Huckleberry (<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i>)	--	T	1	10
**	Four-leaved Milkweed (<i>Asclepias quadrifolia</i>)	--	T	1	7
	Hairy Bedstraw (<i>Galium pilosum</i>)	--	E	Historical	4
	Hairy Stargrass (<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>)	--	E	Historical	14
	Kalm's Brome Grass (<i>Bromus kalmii</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Northern Prickly Ash (<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>)	--	E	Historical	1
	Pink Azalea (<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>)	--	E	Historical	2
	Prostrate Tick Trefoil (<i>Desmodium rotundifolium</i>)	--	T	Historical	9
	River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>)	--	T	Historical	8
**	Rue Anemone (<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>)	--	E	1	5
***	Sicklepod (<i>Arabis canadensis</i>)	--	T	1	8
	Skydrop Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum patens</i>)	--	E	Historical	9
	Slender Bush-clover (<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Slender Pinweed (<i>Lechea tenuifolia</i>)	--	E	Historical	2
	Smooth-forked Chickweed (<i>Paronychia canadensis</i>)	--	T	Historical	8
	Walking Fern (<i>Asplenium rhizophyllum</i>)	--	E	Historical	6
	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	--	T	Historical	26
Vertebrates - Mammals					
**	New England Cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>)	--	-	1	19
Vertebrates - Reptiles					
**	Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	--	-	1	111
	Eastern Box Turtle (<i>Terrapene carolina</i>)	--	-	Historical	5
Vertebrates - Fish					
**	Banded Sunfish (<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>)	--	-	1	24
Invertebrates - Insects					
	A Geometrid Moth (<i>Metarranthis apiciaria</i>)	--	-	Historical	2
	Cobweb Skipper (<i>Hesperia metea</i>)	--	-	Historical	5
	Horace's Dusky Wing (<i>Erynnis horatius</i>)	--	-	Historical	1
	Persius Dusky Wing (<i>Erynnis persius persius</i>)	--	E	Historical	6
	Wild Indigo Duskywing (<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>)	--	-	Historical	1

Listed? E = Endangered T = Threatened W = Special concern (watch list) M = Monitored

Flags **** = Highest importance
 *** = Extremely high importance
 ** = Very high importance
 * = High importance

These flags are based on a combination of (1) how rare the species or community is and (2) how large or healthy its examples are in that town. Please contact the Natural Heritage Bureau at (603) 271-2214 to learn more about approaches to setting priorities.



Town		Listed?		# reported last 20	
Flag	Species or Community Name	Federal	State	Town	State
<u>Lisbon</u>					
	Natural Communities - Palustrine				
	Medium level fen system	--	-	Historical	58
	Plants				
	Chestnut Sedge (<i>Carex castanea</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Stiff Gentian (<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i>)	--	E	Historical	6
<u>Litchfield</u>					
	Natural Communities - Palustrine				
**	Kettle hole bog system	--	-	2	23
*	Medium level fen system	--	-	1	58
	Red maple - sensitive fern swamp	--	-	Historical	10
***	Sand plain basin marsh system	--	-	4	16
	Plants				
	Bald Spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>)	--	E	Historical	4
	Blunt-leaved Milkweed (<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>)	--	T	Historical	12
**	Dwarf Huckleberry (<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i>)	--	T	1	10
**	False Pimpernel (<i>Lindernia dubia</i> var. <i>anagallidea</i>)	--	E	2	4
**	Grassleaf Goldenrod (<i>Euthamia caroliniana</i>)	--	E	1	6
	Long-leaved Bluets (<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Low Bindweed (<i>Calystegia spithamea</i>)	--	E	Historical	8
**	Reticulated Nutrush (<i>Scleria reticularis</i>)	--	E	1	1
***	Sharp-flowered Mannagrass (<i>Glyceria acutiflora</i>)	--	E	2	9
	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	--	T	Historical	26
	Wright's Spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis diandra</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Vertebrates - Mammals				
**	New England Cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>)	--	-	1	19
	Vertebrates - Birds				
**	Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)	--	T	1	12
	Great Blue Heron (Rookery) (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)	--	-	Historical	38
	Vertebrates - Reptiles				
**	Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	--	-	4	111
**	Eastern Hognose Snake (<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>)	--	T	1	23
**	Spotted Turtle (<i>Clemmys guttata</i>)	--	-	8	68
	Invertebrates - Insects				
***	Ringed Bog Haunter (<i>Williamsonia lintneri</i>)	--	E	2	5

Listed? E = Endangered T = Threatened W = Special concern (watch list) M = Monitored

Flags **** = Highest importance These flags are based on a combination of (1) how rare the species or community is and
 *** = Extremely high importance (2) how large or healthy its examples are in that town. Please contact the Natural
 ** = Very high importance Heritage Bureau at (603) 271-2214 to learn more about approaches to setting priorities.
 * = High importance



Town Flag	Species or Community Name	Listed?		# reported last 20	
		Federal	State	Town	State
Merrimack					
	Natural Communities - Terrestrial				
	Pitch pine - scrub oak woodland	--	-	Historical	16
	Natural Communities - Palustrine				
	Moderate-gradient sandy-cobbly riverbank system	--	-	Historical	10
**	Pitch pine - heath swamp	--	-	1	2
**	Red maple floodplain forest	--	-	3	15
**	Sand plain basin marsh system	--	-	2	16
*	Silver maple - false nettle - sensitive fern floodplain forest	--	-	2	22
**	Swamp white oak basin swamp	--	-	1	4
	Plants				
	Bald Spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>)	--	E	Historical	4
**	Bird's-foot Violet (<i>Viola pedata</i>)	--	T	1	11
	Blunt-leaved Milkweed (<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>)	--	T	Historical	12
	Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Common Sandbur (<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>)	--	E	Historical	11
	Goat's Rue (<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>)	--	E	Historical	6
	Low Bindweed (<i>Calystegia spithamea</i>)	--	E	Historical	8
	Philadelphia Panic Grass (<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i>)	--	E	Historical	8
	Siberian Chives (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Skydrop Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum patens</i>)	--	E	Historical	9
***	Smooth Bidens (<i>Bidens laevis</i>)	--	E	1	2
	Stiff Tick Trefoil (<i>Desmodium obtusum</i>)	--	E	Historical	2
	Virginian Mountain Mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Wild Garlic (<i>Allium canadense</i>)	--	E	Historical	5
**	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	--	T	1	26
	Wild Senna (<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>)	--	E	Historical	10
	Wright's Spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis diandra</i>)	--	E	Historical	3
	Vertebrates - Mammals				
**	New England Cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>)	--	-	2	19
	Vertebrates - Birds				
**	Grasshopper Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)	--	T	1	12
**	Vesper Sparrow (<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>)	--	-	1	12
	Vertebrates - Reptiles				
**	Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	--	-	2	111
**	Eastern Hognose Snake (<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>)	--	T	2	23
**	Wood Turtle (<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>)	--	-	1	111
	Vertebrates - Fish				
	American Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra appendix</i>)	--	-	Historical	3
**	Banded Sunfish (<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>)	--	-	1	24
	Bridled Shiner (<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>)	--	-	Historical	17
**	Swamp Darter (<i>Etheostoma fusiforme</i>)	--	-	1	13
	Invertebrates - Insects				
	Karner Blue Butterfly (<i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i>)	E	E	Historical	5

Listed?	E = Endangered	T = Threatened	W = Special concern (watch list)	M = Monitored
Flags	*** = Highest importance ** = Extremely high importance * = Very high importance = High importance			
	These flags are based on a combination of (1) how rare the species or community is and (2) how large or healthy its examples are in that town. Please contact the Natural Heritage Bureau at (603) 271-2214 to learn more about approaches to setting priorities.			



Town		Listed?		# reported last 20	
Flag	Species or Community Name	Federal	State	Town	State
Nashua					
	Natural Communities - Terrestrial				
	Hemlock forest	--	-	Historical	4
	Pitch pine - scrub oak woodland	--	-	Historical	16
	Natural Communities - Palustrine				
*	Medium level fen system	--	-	1	58
**	Poor level fen/bog system	--	-	1	27
**	Sand plain basin marsh system	--	-	1	16
	Plants				
	American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Arrow-headed Rattlebox (<i>Crotalaria sagittalis</i>)	--	E	Historical	1
*	Bird's-foot Violet (<i>Viola pedata</i>)	--	T	1	11
	Common Sandbur (<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>)	--	E	Historical	11
	Goat's Rue (<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>)	--	E	Historical	6
	Hairy Stargrass (<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>)	--	E	Historical	14
***	Northern Blazing Star (<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>)	--	E	2	15
	Northern Prickly Ash (<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>)	--	E	Historical	1
	Siberian Chives (<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>)	--	E	Historical	7
	Sicklepod (<i>Arabis canadensis</i>)	--	T	Historical	8
***	Smooth Bidens (<i>Bidens laevis</i>)	--	E	1	2
	White-topped Aster (<i>Sericocarpus linifolius</i>)	--	E	Historical	5
	Wild Garlic (<i>Allium canadense</i>)	--	E	Historical	5
**	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	--	T	1	26
	Wild Senna (<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>)	--	E	Historical	10
	Vertebrates - Reptiles				
**	Blanding's Turtle (<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>)	--	-	1	111
	Eastern Hognose Snake (<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>)	--	T	Historical	23
**	Spotted Turtle (<i>Clemmys guttata</i>)	--	-	2	68
	Vertebrates - Fish				
**	Banded Sunfish (<i>Enneacanthus obesus</i>)	--	-	1	24
Nelson					
	Natural Communities - Palustrine				
	Poor level fen/bog system	--	-	Historical	27
	Plants				
	Green Adder's Mouth (<i>Malaxis unifolia</i>)	--	T	Historical	56
	Vertebrates - Birds				
***	Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	M	E	1	21
**	Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	--	T	2	225

Listed? E = Endangered T = Threatened W = Special concern (watch list) M = Monitored

Flags

**** = Highest importance
 *** = Extremely high importance
 ** = Very high importance
 * = High importance

These flags are based on a combination of (1) how rare the species or community is and (2) how large or healthy its examples are in that town. Please contact the Natural Heritage Bureau at (603) 271-2214 to learn more about approaches to setting priorities.